



DORKING URBAN AND
RURAL DISTRICTS.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
J. WILLIAMSON, M.D., D.P.H.,
For the year 1925.



DORKING URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

J. WILLIAMSON, M.D., D.P.H.,

For the year 1925.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29164837>

DORKING URBAN DISTRICT.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1925.

I.—Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Area and Population.—The area of the District is 1,338 acres.

The population at each Census, 1891 to 1921, was as follows:—

Census.	Total.	Males.	Females.
1891	7132	3236	3896
1901	7670	3462	4208
1911	7848	3544	4304
1921	8057	3545	4512

It was estimated by the Registrar-General at 7,990 persons for the year 1925.

Physical Features.—The District is situated at the foot of the southern escarpment of the North Downs, for the most part on the Folkestone beds of the Lower Greensand. The lowest part, to the north, is about 170-ft. above sea level, the High Street being at about 200-ft.; the ground rises to a height of about 400-ft. to the east, south and south-west, and, with Box Hill to the north-east and Ranmore to the north-west rising to a height of over 600-ft., the town is to a large extent surrounded by hills.

The natural drainage is to the river Mole and one of its tributaries, the Pipp Brook.

Inhabited Houses and Families.—At the Census, 1921, there were 1,857 inhabited houses, occupied by 1,957 private families, 86 of the dwellings containing two families, and 7 containing three families. There were in addition 19 other occupied dwellings.

Of the 1,857 occupied private dwellings

145 or 8 per cent.	contained 1—3 rooms.
1,049 or 56 "	" 4—5 "
511 or 28 "	" 6—8 "
and 152 or 8 "	" 9 or more rooms.

The total number of occupied rooms in these houses was 10,327, and the population was 7,640, or 1·35 rooms per person.

The following Table shows the number and percentage of families occupying from 1 to 5 rooms, and over 5 rooms, with the respective populations and the percentage of the whole population in private families, and the corresponding percentages of families and population in 1911.

Number of Rooms	Number of Families	Percentage of Families.		Population 1921	Percentage of Population.	
		1921	1911		1921	1911
1	40	2·0	2·5	60	0·8	0·7
2	93	4·8	4·5	195	2·5	2·0
3	130	6·6	5·8	400	5·2	4·8
4	420	21·5	22·1	1573	20·6	21·3
5	662	33·8	30·4	2780	36·4	32·9
Over 5	612	31·3	34·7	2632	34·5	38·3

Exclusive of families recorded as consisting of one person only, 189 families, with an average of 3·1 persons per family, occupied tenements of less than 4 rooms, and 401 families, with an average of 3·9 persons per family, occupied 4-roomed tenements.

The average size of families in the District was 3·9 persons, as against 4·21 in 1911, and was the lowest in the County with the exception of one District.

In 1921 there were 20 families living under conditions of more than two persons per room ; there were 170 persons in these families, or 2·2 per cent. of the population in private families. In 1911 there were 15 such families forming 1·6 per cent. of the population. The percentage for the County in 1921 was 4·2.

Rateable Value.—The rateable value at the end of 1925 was £71,987, and the amount produced by a penny rate was about £300.

Social Conditions.—The District is largely residential and there are no special industries. At the Census, 1921, the numbers of persons recorded as engaged in occupations were 2,385 males and 1,210 females. The chief numbers enumerated under various occupations were as follows :—

Occupation.		Males	Females
Agricultural occupations	...	206	6
Metal workers	...	157	—
Makers of textile goods and articles of dress	49		87
Workers in wood, etc.	...	131	2
Builders, bricklayers, etc.	...	151	1
Painters and decorators	...	101	1
Transport workers	...	309	21
Commercial and financial occupations	400		148
Professional occupations	...	114	138
Persons employed in personal service	116		628
Clerks, draughtsmen, typists, etc.	140		120

Included in the first class were 137 gardeners ; and among those employed in personal service were 488 female domestic servants.

Vital Statistics.—The population of Dorking contains a very high percentage of persons in the later periods of life, and therefore conduces to a high death-rate. In each of the past five years more than 50 per cent. of the deaths have occurred among persons above the age of 65 years, the percentage for the whole period being 55, both for males and females.

The following Table shows the age-distribution of the population at each Census, 1891 to 1921.

Age-period.	Persons at Census.				Census 1921	
	1891	1901	1911	1921	Males.	Females.
Under 5	737	699	719	566	279	287
5—9	763	718	730	681	324	357
10—14	749	732	619	663	322	341
15—19	648	718	647	664	283	381
20—24	645	685	610	519	205	314
25—34	1059	1214	1297	1131	458	673
35—44	858	997	1062	1223	534	689
45—54	698	772	889	1053	475	578
55—64	502	592	667	770	348	422
65 & over	473	543	608	787	317	470
	7132	7670	7848	8057	3545	4512

A factor is calculated by which the recorded death-rates are multiplied in order to correct the influence of the age and sex distribution ; the factor for Dorking, based on the 1911 population, was .86 ; factors for the 1921 population have not been issued by the Registrar-General for districts having a population below 10,000, but that for Dorking based on the figures above is about .8, and the recorded death-rates for the district for recent years should therefore be reduced by about one-fifth when comparing them with the standardized death-rates of other districts.

The Table also shows the marked decrease in the number of children in the district since 1891, and the increase in numbers in the later age-periods.

The births registered in the district in 1925 numbered 121 ; the nett births belonging to the district were 117, giving a birth-rate of 14.6 per 1000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 18.3 per 1000.

The deaths registered in the district in 1925 numbered 115, of which 34 occurred in the Infirmary and 10 in the Cottage Hospital ; the nett deaths belonging to Dorking numbered 109.

The death-rate for 1925 was 13.6 per 1000 of the population, representing a standardized rate of 10.9. The rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 12.2 per 1000.

The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 6, viz., 4 male and 2 female. The mortality rate was 51 per 1000 births. The rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 75.

Five deaths occurred among children between the ages of one year and five years.

The number of deaths from various causes in the two periods, 1916 to 1920, and 1921 to 1925, are shown in the following Table:—

Cause of Death.	1916—1920		1921—25	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Enteric fever
Small-pox
Measles	3	2	...
Scarlet fever	2	...	...
Whooping-cough	2	2	2
Diphtheria	2	8	...
Influenza	5	13	4
Encephalitis lethargica	1
Meningococcal meningitis
Respiratory tuberculosis	14	18	14
Other tuberculous diseases	7	2	2
Cancer	41	36	38
Rheumatic fever	1	1
Diabetes	2	...	3
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	14	20	14
Heart disease	20	35	35
Arterio-sclerosis	3	7	35
Bronchitis	16	33	22
Pneumonia (all forms)	15	24	13
Other respiratory diseases	5	5	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	2	2
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	2	1
Appendicitis and typhlitis
Cirrhosis of liver	2	...	...
Nephritis	9	6	4
Puerperal sepsis	1	2
Other accidents, etc., of pregnancy	1	3
Congenital debility, etc.	11	10	7
Suicide	6	2	3
Other Violence	8	1	7
Other defined diseases	57	51	39
Causes ill-defined	1
All causes	246	282	250
				270

The marked increase in the number of deaths attributed to Arterio-sclerosis is probably due to a large extent to change in nomenclature.

The following table shows for the District for each quinquennium and for 1925, the average annual birth-rate, crude death-rate, infant mortality rate, and deaths between the ages of one and five years :—

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Infant Mortality.	Average Deaths 1—5 years.
1876—1880.....	30·9	16·4	119	14
1881—1885.....	28·3	15·9	88	9
1886—1890.....	25·4	13·9	77	10
1891—1895..	22·0	14·1	68	9
1896—1900.....	22·3	14·8	117	7
1901—1905.....	22·0	14·3	100	6
1906—1910.....	21·3	14·2	73	7
1911—1915.....	17·8	12·2	81	4
1916—1920.....	15·2	14·2	60	5
1921—1925.....	16·6	13·1	45	3
1925	14·6	13·6	51	5

Poor Law Relief.—The average number of persons from the Urban and Rural Districts in the Guardians' Institution is about 100, and the annual cost of maintenance is about £2,800; the number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief is about 70, and the annual amount expended is about £1080. The figures for the Districts separately are not available.

2.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council.

There is no subsidised hospital in the District. Hospitals for Tuberculosis and Small Pox are available under the schemes of the Surrey County Council.

The Isolation Hospital is the Joint Hospital for the Dorking Urban and Rural Districts at Logmore Lane, Westcott.

The Dorking and District Hospital, Tower Hill, containing 17 beds and 3 cots, admits general medical and surgical cases at a small weekly charge.

Ambulance Facilities.—Cases of infectious disease are removed in the horse-ambulance belonging to the Joint Hospital Committee.

For non-infectious and accident cases a motor-ambulance, provided by the Order of St. John and British Red Cross Society, is stationed at the Dorking Motor Company's Works in Myrtle Road, Dorking.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Centre.	Situation.	Nature of Accommodation.	By whom provided.
Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre	Imperial Club, West Street	Three rooms	Surrey County Council
School Clinic	do.	do.	do.
Day Nursery	St. Martin's Creche, Church Street	For 20 children	Voluntary Committee

There is no clinic for Tuberculosis or Venereal Diseases in the District. Patients attend Dispensaries and Hospitals in other Districts under the schemes of the Surrey County Council.

Public Health Officers.—Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. Williamson, M.D., London, D.P.H.; whole time, combined district; salary contribution made.

Sanitary Inspector, Mr. S. S. Gettings, A.M.I.C.E., M.Inst., M. and C.E.; whole time to District Council; salary contribution made; also Surveyor to the District for all purposes.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—The Dorking Benefit Nursing Association, and the Dorking Queen Victoria Jubilee Nursing Society maintain nurses for general nursing in Dorking and the neighbouring district. There is no subsidy from the District Council.

No provision has been made for the nursing of cases of measles or other infectious disease.

Midwives.—There is no midwife employed or subsidised by the District Council. Four midwives practise in the District.

Legislation in Force.—The following Adoptive Acts, etc., relating to the public health are in force in the District :—

Acts, &c.	Date of Adoption.
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ...	December 2nd, 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ; Parts II., III. and V.	December 2nd, 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part IV.	September 10th, 1923.
Bye-laws relating to Nuisances	January 16th, 1883.
” ” Common Lodging House ...	January 16th, 1883.
” ” Slaughter-houses	January 16th, 1883.
” ” New Streets and Buildings ...	December 11th, 1916.
” ” Drainage of Existing Buildings	December 11th, 1916.
Regulations as to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	August 10th, 1899.

3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—A constant supply is provided by the Dorking District Water Company throughout the District. The water is obtained from two sources in the Lower Greensand formation, viz., from wells at the pumping station in Station Road, Dorking, and from springs in the Redlands Woods, above the Holmwood. The former is a fairly hard water; the latter, which is a moorland water obtained from a private gathering ground on which there are no habitations, is very soft, but is reported to have no appreciable action on lead; it contains a rather high amount of organic matter, probably almost entirely of vegetable origin, but in other respects it usually gives very good results on bacteriological and chemical examination; it is filtered before distribution.

Analyses are made three or four times a year by Drs. Thresh and Beale, the expense being equally shared between the District Council and the Water Company. In the sample taken from the Redlands in July the bacillus coli was reported to be present, but no other organisms that would

indicate contamination were discovered, the total number of bacteria was not excessive, there was complete absence of free ammonia, nitrates and nitrites, and the other chemical results were normal. All other samples gave very satisfactory results.

Rivers and Streams.—No instance of pollution came to the notice of the Council during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The whole of the District is sewered, and the drains of the houses, with very few exceptions, are connected with the system. The sewage is treated at the Outfall Works at Pixham, by passage through four continuous settling tanks, followed by treatment by percolating filters fed by sprinklers. Four additional sprinkler beds were constructed in 1923, making 12 in all. There has since been a considerable increase in the amount of sewage, and gaugings which were taken by the Surveyor over a period of several weeks in the middle of 1925 showed that the average dry-weather flow was 261,000 gallons per day, as against 200,000 gallons in 1922. The District Council accordingly adopted a scheme which he had prepared for the provision of four more percolating filters designed to treat an additional flow of 110,000 gallons per day.

Closet Accommodation.—Water closets with flushing apparatus are general throughout the District, only very few houses being provided with earth-closets.

Scavenging.—The house refuse is collected weekly throughout the District under the supervision of the Surveyor and is consumed in the two-cell Heenan and Froude Destructor.

Movable galvanised iron ashbins are general throughout the District.

Work of Sanitary Inspector.—The Sanitary Inspector makes the following report:—

Number of inspections of Dwelling houses	...	...	...	267
„ Dwelling-houses at which Nuisances were discovered				107
„ Nuisances discovered on other premises	...	...	...	1
„ Informal Notices served	...	...	...	82
„ Statutory „ „ „	...	...	...	13
„ Nuisances abated or defects remedied	...	...	...	67
„ Dustbins supplied to existing houses	...	...	...	45

Inspection of other premises:—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Visits.
Places where food is prepared	—	9
Slaughter-houses...	5	27
Common Lodging Houses...	1	4
Bakehouses ..	13	30
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	5	16

No defects were found in the course of these visits.

Schools.—The five Elementary Schools are all provided with a water-supply from the public mains and with water-closets draining to the sewers.

Notices are sent to the Head Teachers on the receipt of notifications of cases of infectious disease occurring in a house in which there are children attending school, and the Teachers report to me the absence or exclusion of any children on account of infectious or contagious disease.

The Schools and homes of the patients are visited by the Health Visitor of the County Council on receipt of these notifications, and I also visited the schools at times of prevalence of infectious disease.

4.—Housing.

General Housing Conditions.—The figures relating to housing at the Census 1921 will be found on pages 3 and 4. At the Census 1911 there were 1820 private families with a population of 7476 in approximately 1720 houses ; in 1921 there were 1957 families with a population of 7640 in 1857 houses. The number of persons per house had, therefore, fallen from 4·35 to 4·11, and the number of families per house was 1·05, somewhat lower than in 1911.

These figures would indicate that there is no marked shortage of houses, but, although the Sanitary Inspector's duties as Surveyor have precluded him from getting definite figures throughout the District, he is constantly discovering cases in which additional housing is required, and the Council have a very long list of applicants for cottages. There are also several houses on which the Council would make closing orders if alternative accommodation could be found.

Under their first scheme of housing the District Council erected 98 houses in Nower Road in 1921 and 1922. A scheme for the erection of 56 houses in Marlborough Road was prepared by Mr. Gettings in 1924, of which 30 had been completed by the end of 1925. The District Council also obtained an additional site by compulsory Order and have adopted a scheme for the erection of 75 houses.

Up to the end of March, 1926, the District Council had granted subsidies to the amount of £2430 in respect of 25 houses, and had advanced £8365 in loans under the Housing Act, 1923, in respect of 12 houses, and £8630 under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act in respect of 12 others.

During the five years 289 houses in all were erected in the District, viz. 99 in 1921, 20 in 1922, 29 in 1923, 33 in 1924, and 108 in 1925.

Overcrowding.—The Census Returns for 1921 showed that 20 families, representing 2·2 per cent. of the population in private families were then living under conditions of more than two persons per room, as against 15 families, representing 1·6 per cent. of the population, in 1911; the percentage of the population living under these conditions in 1921 in the County generally was 4·3. At the Census, 1921, the number of rooms per person, in houses containing not more than nine rooms, was 1·28, as against 1·24 in 1911 ; the corresponding figure in the County in 1921, was 1·21.

In 1921, of 1194 dwellings containing less than six rooms, 29 were occupied by two families and 1 was occupied by three families ; only 2·5 per cent. of such dwellings were, therefore, found to be occupied by more than one family.

In the course of inspections in 1925, 14 cases of overcrowding were discovered, but could not be dealt with owing to the inability to find alternative accommodation.

Fitness of Houses.—A very considerable proportion of the houses are old and of a low standard ; a number of these are inspected in each month and an appreciable amount of work has been done in the past four years to ameliorate the conditions, but many of the cottages, owing to original bad construction or situation cannot be made satisfactory. The chief remediable defects discovered are want of general repair, leaky roofs, dampness of walls and want of cleansing of interiors.

Bye-laws.—During the year the District Council adopted a revised code of Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings.

No occasion was found to take action under the Bye-laws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :							
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

I.—Unfit dwelling houses. Inspection.

(1) Total Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	95
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	79

II.—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	54
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—						
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	12
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...					—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close...	...	...	...	...	...	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ... —
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—
(a) by owners —
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit —
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

5.—Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

Milk Supply.—There are only 5 cowkeepers and purveyors on the Registers. The premises were inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

There is no regular veterinary inspection of cows, and no instance of tuberculosis in cows came to notice during the year.

No application for a licence to sell certified or graded milk was received.

Meat.—The occupiers of the slaughter-houses were circularised and their attention was called to the provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations. Occasional visits were paid at the time of slaughtering and carcases were inspected, but in no instance was a carcase found to be tuberculous or otherwise diseased; 27 visits in all were made to the 5 slaughter-houses.

Routine visits were paid to the butchers' shops and stalls.

The number of slaughter-houses at the under-mentioned dates was :

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered	5	5	5
Licensed	—	—	—

Other Foods.—The bakehouses were inspected and found to be kept in a satisfactory manner, although they are for the most part old structures.

Unsound food was seized on two occasions, viz., 6-lb. of corned beef and 7-lb. of tinned plums.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.—The County Medical Officer of Health informs me that 24 samples of milk, 4 of cream and 1 sample of butter were analysed under these Acts, that 3 samples of milk were found to be adulterated, and that there was 1 prosecution resulting in conviction.

6—Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows, for each of the past five years, the number of cases of certain infectious diseases notified in the District :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Scarlet Fever	22	16	4	12	2
Diphtheria	2	4	5	2	2
Enteric Fever ... ...	...	...	1	1	1
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	13	8	7	12	9
Non-Pulmonary „ ...	1	4	2	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...	1	1	2

In the period 55 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in 44 private houses and there was one case at the Cottage Hospital ; the 15 cases of Diphtheria were all single cases.

Bacteriological examinations are made at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine at the expense of the District Council. During the year 1925, 6 specimens were examined for the presence of the diphtheria bacillus, all with negative results, 5 for the tubercle bacillus, with one positive result, and 1 for the Widal reaction, which was positive to Paratyphoid B.

One specimen of blood was examined for typhoid bacilli, with negative result.

The District Council arranged with a chemist in the town for the supply of diphtheria antitoxin in phials containing 8,000 units to medical practitioners for use in necessitous cases, but none was issued during the year 1925.

No applications of the Schick or Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were made.

The 3 cases of Enteric Fever were all cases of Paratyphoid B. Fever.

Under the Public Health (Pneumonia, etc.) Regulations, 1919, 11 cases of Pneumonia were notified during the five years ; in the same period, 4 deaths from Lobar Pneumonia, 2 of Influenza Pneumonia, 9 of Bronch-pneumonia, and 13 of unspecified Pneumonia were registered in the District, but none of these were among the notified cases. Two cases of Malaria were notified in 1921.

The deaths from Influenza in the five years were 9 in number, giving an average annual death-rate of 0·23 per 1000 of the population, as against an average rate of 0·37 for England and Wales ; 5 of the deaths occurred among persons above the age of 65 years.

The Isolation Hospital for the District is the Joint Isolation Hospital at Westcott ; with the exception of one patient who was found in the peeling stage of Scarlet Fever, all the notified cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria in the period were removed. One of the cases of Enteric Fever also was admitted to the Hospital.

There was an extensive outbreak of Measles in 1923, and Whooping Cough was prevalent in 1922 and 1925; there was no death from the former disease, but two children between the ages of one and two years died of Whooping Cough in 1925. At the times of outbreak the School Nurse of the County Council makes frequent inspections of the children in the schools and also visits the homes, and I visited the schools and advised as to precautions.

There are no facilities for the cleansing of verminous persons or their belongings.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	2	2	...
Diphtheria	2	2	...
Enteric Fever	1	1	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	1	...

Total cases at various ages :—

	2	3	4	5	10	15	20
Scarlet Fever	2	...	...	...
Diphtheria...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever	1	...

Tuberculosis.—New cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F.	M	F	M	F
0 ... ...	..	...	..	...	..	..	..	..
1 ... ...	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
5 ... ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 ... ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 ... ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 ... ...	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	3	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
35 ... ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
55 ... ...	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..
65 and upwards ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	5	4	2	...	3	2	2	...

The 5 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis represent a death-rate of 0·63 per 1000 of the estimated population, as against an average rate of 0·76 for the ten years, 1916 to 1925.

The following Table shows the mean population, the number of cases notified, and the number of deaths from certain infectious diseases in each quinquennium during the period from 1876 to 1925.

Period	Mean Population.	Cases.			Deaths.					
		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis
1876	6200	...	...	...	4	3	9	7	15	50
1881	6510	...	...	...	1	...	8	6	8	60
1886	6910	...	...	...	...	4	1	9	17	48
1891	7260	251	63	9	10	10	2	3	8	41
1896	7530	33	132	9	...	23	2	3	12	46
1901	7720	77	30	11	...	2	1	10	9	38
1906	7820	243	43	3	4	10	...	7	5	44
1911	7900	115	23	...	...	5	...	6	7	26
1916	8000	74	113	...	2	10	...	5	4	34
1921	7960	56	15	3	...	...	...	...	2	27

7.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

Two deaths were attributed to Puerperal Fever in 1921, but only one of the cases had been notified, the cause of death in the other being certified to be due to Septic Pneumonia following childbirth ; there was no other case or death from the disease in the five years.

The deaths from Whooping Cough of two children, each of the age of one year, were recorded in 1925 ; in the same year an infant belonging to Dorking died of Diarrhoea in another District, but there was no other death from either of these diseases nor from Measles during the period.

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified in 1925, and one of them was removed to St. Margaret's Hospital. Three other cases were notified in the previous four years, and all made good recovery,

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1925.

Cases Notified.	Treated at Home.	Treated in Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.
2	1	1	2

The work of Maternity and Child Welfare is carried out under the Scheme of the Surrey County Council.

EPSOM.

May, 1926.

J. WILLIAMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

DORKING RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

J. WILLIAMSON, M.D., D.P.H.,

For the year 1925.

DORKING RURAL DISTRICT.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1925.

I.—Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Area and Population.—The area of the District is 39,526 acres.

The population at each Census, 1891 to 1921, was as follows:—

Census.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1891	10091	5010	5081
1901	9779	4792	4987
1911	10580	5103	5477
1921	10575	4853	5722

It was estimated by the Registrar-General at 10,360 persons for the year 1925.

The following Table shows the population in each parish in 1901, 1911 and 1921, the area, and the number of occupied private dwellings in 1921:—

Parish.	Census Population.			Area in Acres.	Dwellings 1921
	1901	1911	1921		
Abinger ...	1435	1573	1458	7481	339
Capel ...	1448	1416	1459	5694	355
Dorking Rural ...	3740	3967	4280	8680	998
Effingham ...	539	643	605	3183	133
Mickleham ...	750	782	795	2846	176
Newdigate ...	623	904	803	4744	208
Ockley ...	698	747	625	3400	157
Wotton ...	546	548	550	3498	122

The population for 1901 is that of the parishes as at present constituted.

Physical Features.—Effingham Common, at the north-west part of the District, about 160-ft. above sea-level, is situated on the London clay, and the village of Effingham, at about 250-ft., lies across the Lower London Tertiaries; the village of Mickleham, at the north-east part, is in the valley which passes through the North Downs, at a height of 120-ft. to 160-ft.; the rest of the northern part of the District is situated on the North Downs,

which rise at the southern escarpment to a height of 650-ft. at Boxhill, 620-ft. at Ranmore, and 724-ft. at the White Downs, in the parish of Wotton.

Pixham, at the foot of Box Hill, in the parish of Dorking Rural, about 160-ft. above sea-level, is on the Gault clay. From west to east, Abinger Hammer (300-ft.) and Hatch (550-ft.), the greater part of the parish of Wotton, Westcott (270-ft.) and Coldharbour (720-ft.) are on the Lower Greensand, which rises at Leith Hill to a height of 965-ft. The Holmwood (250-ft. to 390-ft.) is mainly on the clay of the Weald, as are also Forest Green (280-ft.), Oakwood Hill (290-ft.) and the villages of Ockley (250-ft.), Capel (290 ft.) and Newdigate (260-ft.).

The greater part of the district drains to the River Mole and its tributaries; the western part of the parish of Abinger drains to the Tillingbourne, a tributary of the river Wey, and the southern part of Ockley drains to a tributary of the river Arun.

Inhabited Houses.—At the Census, 1921, there were 2,488 inhabited houses, occupied by 2,558 private families, 66 of the dwellings containing two families, and 2 containing three families. There were in addition 9 other occupied dwellings.

Of the 2,488 occupied private dwellings

284 or 11 per cent.	contained 1—3 rooms.
1,481 or 60	" " 4—5 "
476 or 19	" " 6—8 "
and 247 or 10	" " 9 or more rooms.

The total number of occupied rooms in these houses was 14,306, and the population was 10,343, or 1·38 rooms per person.

Families.—The number of families or separate occupiers in 1921 was 2,558 as against 2,499 in 1911.

The following Table shows the number and percentage of families occupying from 1 to 5 rooms, and over 5 rooms, with the respective populations and the percentage of the whole population in private families, and the corresponding percentages of families and population in 1911.

Number of Rooms	Number of Families	Percentage of Families.		Population 1921	Percentage of Population.	
		1921	1911		1921	1911
1	26	1·0	1·1	50	0·5	0·3
2	111	4·3	3·4	240	2·3	1·3
3	261	10·2	9·5	849	8·2	7·5
4	667	26·1	28·3	2510	24·3	27·0
5	807	31·6	28·6	3237	31·3	28·8
Over 5	686	26·8	29·1	3457	33·4	35·1

Exclusive of families recorded as consisting of one person only, 319 families, with an average of 3·4 persons per family, occupied tenements of less than 4 rooms, and 638 families, with an average of 3·7 persons per family, occupied 4-roomed tenements.

The average size of families in the District was 4·04 persons, as against 4·21 in 1911.

In 1921 there were 41 families living under conditions of more than two persons per room; there were 293 persons in these families, or 2·8 per cent. of the population in private families. In 1911 there were 39 such families

forming 3·4 per cent. of the population. The percentage for the County in 1921 was 4·2.

Rateable Value.—The rateable value at the end of 1925 was £99,613, and the amount produced by a penny rate was about £400.

Social Conditions.—The District is mainly residential and agricultural. At the Census, 1921, the numbers of persons recorded as engaged in occupations were 3,374 males and 1,483 females. The chief numbers recorded under various occupations were :—

Occupation.		Males	Females
Agricultural occupations	...	1,459	54
Metal workers	...	145	—
Workers in wood, etc.	...	117	1
Builders, bricklayers, etc.	...	210	—
Painters and decorators	...	67	—
Transport workers	...	354	8
Commercial and financial occupations		211	60
Professional occupations	...	101	125
Persons employed in personal service		200	1,074
Clerks, draughtsmen, typists, etc.		71	68

Included in the first class were 192 male and 17 female farmers, farmers' sons, etc., 44 farm bailiffs, 535 male and 7 female gardeners and gardeners' labourers, 611 male and 24 female agricultural labourers, and 32 woodmen; and, among those engaged in personal service, 907 female domestic servants.

Vital Statistics.—The population of the district contains a very high percentage of persons in the later periods of life, and therefore conduces to a high death-rate. In each of the past five years more than 50 per cent. of the deaths have occurred among persons above the age of 65 years, the percentage for the whole period being 55, both for males and females.

The following Table shows the age-distribution of the population at each Census, 1891 to 1921 :—

Age-period.	Persons at Census.				Census 1921	
	1891	1901	1911	1921	Males.	Females.
Under 5	1153	923	982	735	370	365
5—9	1183	993	990	832	424	408
10—14	1209	983	913	871	405	466
15—19	919	940	841	844	396	448
20—24	869	916	824	723	327	396
25—34	1346	1461	1837	1489	639	850
35—44	1216	1242	1493	1565	665	900
45—54	942	1018	1117	1480	683	797
55—64	651	741	856	1058	490	568
65 & over	603	562	727	978	454	524
	10091	9779	10580	10575	4853	5722

The Registrar-General has provided factors, calculated from the Census returns of population, by which the recorded death-rates are multiplied in order to correct the influence of the age-distribution; the factor for the district, based on the 1911 population was .896, and that on the 1921

population was .780 ; the recorded death-rates in the earlier period should therefore be reduced by one-tenth, and in recent years by rather more than one-fifth when comparing them with the standardized death-rates of other districts.

The births registered in the district in 1925 numbered 145 ; the nett births belonging to the district were 151, giving a birth-rate of 14.6. The rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 18.3.

The deaths registered in the district in 1925 numbered 103 ; the nett deaths belonging to the district numbered 104.

The death-rate for 1925 was 10.0 per 1000 of the population, representing a standardized rate of 7.8. The rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 12.2.

The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 3, viz., 2 male and 1 female. The mortality rate was 20 per 1000 births. The rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 75.

Seven deaths occurred among children between the ages of one year and five years, 4 of which were due to Broncho-pneumonia.

The number of deaths from various causes in the two periods, 1916 to 1920, and 1921 to 1925, are shown in the following Table :—

Cause of Death.	1916—1920		1921—25	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Enteric fever	...	1	...	1
Small-pox
Measles	...	2	...	1
Scarlet fever	2	2
Whooping-cough	...	1	...	...
Diphtheria	...	4	...	2
Influenza	...	13	8	7
Encephalitis lethargica	...	1	1	...
Meningococcal meningitis
Respiratory tuberculosis	...	28	20	18
Other tuberculous diseases	...	2	4	1
Cancer	...	27	35	41
Rheumatic fever	1	4
Diabetes	...	4	1	2
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	...	14	18	12
Heart disease	...	47	51	37
Arterio-sclerosis	...	9	3	34
Bronchitis	...	22	19	17
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	18	15	22
Other respiratory diseases	...	1	7	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	1	...	3
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	2	...
Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	1	...	3
Cirrhosis of liver	...	1	...	2
Nephritis	...	13	13	6
Puerperal sepsis	2	...
Other accidents, etc., of pregnancy	1	4
Congenital debility, etc.	...	10	11	9
Suicide	...	2	2	4
Other Violence	...	3	7	14
Other defined diseases	...	49	52	40
Causes ill-defined	1	...
All causes	...	272	282	283
				260

The following table shows for the District the average annual birth-rate, crude death rate, infant mortality rate, and number of deaths of children between the ages of one and five years for each of the last ten quinquennial periods and for the year 1925 :—

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Infant Mortality.	Average Deaths 1-5 years.
1876—1880.....	29·8	14·1	88	10
1881—1885.....	28·1	13·6	79	10
1886—1890.....	25·6	13·0	82	9
1891—1895..	22·8	13·1	86	10
1896—1900.....	20·0	13·4	78	8
1901—1905.....	21·1	11·5	82	6
1906—1910.....	20·0	11·1	55	3
1911—1915.....	16·5	9·0	52	4
1916—1920.....	14·2	11·8	49	3
1921—1925.....	16·4	10·4	45	4
1925	14·6	10·0	20	7

Poor Law Relief.—The average number of persons from the Urban and Rural Districts in the Guardians' Institution is about 100, and the annual cost of maintenance is about £2,800; the number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief is about 70, and the annual amount expended is about £1080. The figures for the Districts separately are not available.

2.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council.

Hospitals for Tuberculosis and Small Pox are available under the schemes of the Surrey County Council.

The Isolation Hospital for the District is the Dorking Joint Isolation Hospital at Logmore Lane, Westcott, which provides for the isolation of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever in the Dorking Urban and Rural Districts.

The permanent buildings consist of an Administrative Block, and a Ward Block which contains two wards of equal capacity of about 15,000 cubic feet ; a brick building containing Mortuary, Laundry, Disinfector, Coal Shed ; an Ambulance Shed ; and a Caretaker's Cottage.

There are in addition, two Ward Blocks of corrugated iron, each containing two wards of capacity of about 4,000 cubic feet each, and, in one, an additional room of 1,000 cubic feet.

In 1924 the Administrative Block was reconstructed and enlarged, an electric-lighting plant was installed, and a more efficient system for the treatment of the sewage was provided.

Cases of general illness are treated in the Capel Village Hospital, and the Dorking and Leatherhead Cottage Hospitals. The Capel Hospital also receives Maternity cases.

Ambulances.—A horse ambulance belonging to the Joint Committee removes cases of infectious disease from all parts of the Districts.

A motor-ambulance, stationed in Dorking and provided by the Order of St. John and British Red Cross Society is available for the removal of cases of accident or disease other than infectious cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Welfare Centres are maintained by the Surrey County Council at Effingham and South Holmwood. The Centres at Dorking and Leatherhead are available for other parts of the District.

Public Health Officers.—Medical Officer of Health—Dr. J. Williamson, M.D., London, D.P.H.; whole time, combined district; salary contribution made.

Sanitary Inspector—Mr. G. Sawyer, Assoc. M.Inst. Mun. and Cy. E., A.R. San. I.; whole time; salary contribution made.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—The following voluntary Associations provide Nurses for the various parishes in the District, viz.: The Dorking Nursing Association, the Effingham Nursing Association, the Holmwood Nursing Association, the Westcott Nursing Association, the Newdigate Nursing Association, the Abinger Nursing Association.

The Capel Village Hospital Staff attend to cases of illness in Capel and Ockley.

Midwives.—There is no midwife employed or subsidised by the District Council. Four midwives are practising in the District, at Abinger, Effingham, Holmwood and Westcott.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations.—The following adoptive Acts, etc., Relating to the Public Health are in force in the District:—

Acts, &c.	Date of Adoption.
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ...	December 4th, 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ; Sections applicable to rural districts	December 4th, 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 : Sec. 25, Secs. 34 to 50, and part IV.	July 24th, 1914.
Bye-laws with respect to Slaughter-houses ...	April 13th, 1905.
" " New Streets and Buildings	June 3rd, 1909.
" " Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc....	May 14th, 1914.
Regulations as to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	June 15th, 1899

Urban powers under Secs. 157 and 158 of the Public Health Act, 1875, were granted for the Parish of Dorking Rural on March 27th, 1884, under Sec. 157 of the Public Health Act 1875, and Sec. 23 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, for the rest of the District on March 30th, 1892, and under Secs. 169 and 170 of the Public Health Act, 1875, on October 24th, 1903.

3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply.—The Parish of Dorking Rural, including The Holmwood, Pixham and Westcott, and the villages of Capel and Ockley, are supplied by the Dorking Water Company from Springs in the Lower Greensand. Mickleham and Effingham are supplied by the Leatherhead Water Company from a well in the chalk. Part of the Parish of Newdigate is supplied by the East Surrey Water Company. Part of the village of Coldharbour, in Capel Parish, is supplied from a Reservoir which collects the Water from springs in the Lower Greensand.

The Hurtwood Water Company supplies a few houses in Parish of Abinger ; the rest of the parish and the parish of Wotton are supplied by local wells and springs in the Lower Greensand.

Effingham Common, on London clay, and parts of the Parishes of Newdigate, Capel and Ockley, on the Weald Clay, are supplied from local wells, the water from which is in many cases hard and saline and unsuitable for domestic purposes.

Mr. Sawyer has supplied me with the following figures, abstracted from records of his inspections of 790 houses, showing the number of houses supplied with water from various sources :—

Parish or Place.	Companies' Supplies.	Wells.	Springs.
Effingham	77	25	13
Mickleham	30	20	7
Holmwood	184	3	...
Westcott	168	11	...
Abinger and Wotton ...	10	67	3
Capel	58	20	1
Newdigate	10	24	...
Ockley	16	42	1
Total	553	212	25

Rivers and Streams.—No instance of pollution came to the notice of the District Council.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Pixham was drained in 1892, South Holmwood in 1902, North and Mid Holmwood in 1904, Westcott in 1905, and villages of Capel and Ockley in 1912.

The Pixham sewer is connected with the system of the Dorking Urban District. The South Holmwood, the North and Mid Holmwood, and the Westcott Sewers discharge to three separate Outfall Works, at each of which the sewage is treated on the same principal, by sedimentation in deep circular tanks followed by treatment in contact beds and finally by passage over the land.

The sewage at Capel discharges at one outfall, where it has to be raised by pumping ; the sewage at Ockley is treated at two outfalls and discharges by gravitation into the tanks. The system of treatment is similar at each outfall, the sewage passing through screening tanks on to sprinkler-beds, the effluent from which is treated in single-contact beds.

The sewers are in each case on the separate system.

The sewerage of the northern portion of the parish of Capel, to provide for the district lying between the existing Capel and South Holmwood systems, was begun in 1924 and was nearing completion at the end of 1925 ; the sewers discharge to the South Holmwood Works.

In 1925 Messrs. John Taylor and Son made a survey with a view to the provision of a system of sewers for Newdigate, but reported to the District Council that the cost would be prohibitive owing to the scattered nature of the area and the difficulties in dealing with the varying levels. They also presented a scheme for the sewerage of Mickleham, with alternative sites for disposal, but the question was in abeyance at the end of the year, as the cost was in excess of the borrowing powers of the parish.

Mr. Sawyer has given me the following summary of the closet accommodation and method of disposal of the drainage of over 800 houses of which records have been obtained in the course of his inspections:—

Parish or Place.	Water Closets.	Earth Closets.	Pail Closets.	Privies.	Drainage to Sewers.	Drainage to Cesspools.	No Drains
Effingham ...	15	27	55	18	...	83	32
Mickleham ...	24	4	27	2	...	49	5
Holmwood ...	180	3	10	...	172	12	3
Westcott ...	167	1	...	1	160	19	...
Abinger and Wotton	16	21	39	5	...	56	24
Capel ...	56	1	20	2	44	21	7
Newdigate ...	8	9	32	5	...	44	10
Ockley ...	15	5	42	17	18	38	22
	481	71	225	50	394	322	103

In the cases in which there are no drains the sink-water and other waste water is collected in movable receptacles and deposited on the gardens.

Scavenging.—The District Council have provided for the collection of house refuse by contractors at Pixham and Westcott.

Frequently recurring nuisances arose from the rapid filling of the cesspools at groups of the Council's cottages, and many private persons experienced difficulty in the emptying and disposal of the contents of their cesspools. The Council accordingly purchased a Dennis Vacuum Cesspool Emtier of 750 gallons capacity towards the end of 1925, and fixed a scale of charges for its hire.

Work of Sanitary Inspector.—The Sanitary Inspector makes the following report :—

Number of inspections of Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	432
„ Dwelling-houses at which Nuisances were discovered				96
„ Nuisances discovered on other premises	...	...	...	26
„ Informal Notices served	...	...	...	165
„ Statutory „ „	...	...	...	4
„ Nuisances abated or defects remedied	...	...	...	230

Inspection of other premises :—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Visits.	Defects discovered.	Notices served.
Slaughter-houses ...	8	69	4	4
Knacker's Yard ...	1	5	4	4
Factories ...	2	5	2	2
Bakehouses ...	14	65	2	5
Other Workshops ...	65	3	2	2
Premises where food is prepared ...	...	15	2	2
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	94	178	17	15

Action under Bye-laws.—The District Council had under consideration during the year the condition of a large permanent holiday encampment at Box Hill, and called upon the proprietor, under the Bye-laws with respect

to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., to provide stand-pipes and a sufficient number of sanitary conveniences. The proprietor eventually agreed to comply with the requirements of the Council.

Other Sanitary Conditions.—A knacker's yard was reported to be in an insanitary condition upon application for the renewal of the licence, and it was not until after considerable delay and the service of notices that the work of improvement was put in hand towards the end of the year.

Schools.—There are 13 Elementary Schools in the District ; Capel, Effingham, North and South Holmwood, Mickleham, Newdigate, Ockley and Westcott Schools are supplied with water from the mains of the respective Water Companies. Abinger Upper and Lower Schools are supplied from wells, and Coldharbour and Wotton Schools from springs, in the Lower Greensand, and Oakwood School from a well in the Weald clay.

All the Schools were visited by me during the year. The sanitary conditions were found to be generally satisfactory ; at one time there was difficulty in securing the emptying of the cesspool at Effingham, and nuisance arose from overflow ; the trouble is not likely to recur, as the Council's emptying plant is now available. Capel, North and South Holmwood and Westcott Schools are provided with water-closets and drain to the sewers, Ockley School has earth-closets and drains to the sewer, and the remaining Schools have earth-closets and drain to cesspools.

4.—Housing.

General Housing Conditions.—The figures relating to housing at the Census, 1921, will be found on page 3. Applications for houses indicate that there is some shortage in the District, but from the Census Returns it would appear to be very slight in comparison with neighbouring areas. The population has varied but little during the past thirty years, and, although it was less than 5 per cent. higher in 1921 than in 1891, the number of inhabited houses increased by 25 per cent. in that period, and the average number of persons per house fell from 5·1 to 4·2. Except in the parish of Dorking Rural, in which 1052 families were occupying 998 houses, the number of families in each parish practically coincides with the number of separate dwellings, and, in the whole District the proportion of houses to families was higher in 1921 than in any of the three previous Censuses.

In 1920 to 1922 the District Council provided 84 houses in 6 parishes, viz. : 12 in Abinger, 18 in Capel, 20 in Dorking Rural, 12 in Effingham, 16 in Mickleham and 6 in Newdigate. Inquiries have since been made in each parish but no further action has been taken in the direct provision of houses by the Council. They undertook, however, to add a sum of £25 in each case to the subsidy of £75 granted with the sanction of the Ministry of Health under the Housing Act, 1923, and grants were made in 1924 and 1925 with respect to 21 houses.

In all, the houses erected in the District in the five years numbered 226, viz., 47 in 1921, 58 in 1922, 31 in 1923, 40 in 1924 and 50 in 1925.

Overcrowding.—The Census Returns for 1921 showed that 41 families, representing 2·8 per cent. of the population in private families, were living under conditions of more than two persons per room ; in 1911 there were 39 such families, representing 3·4 per cent. of the population. The number

of rooms per person, in houses containing not more than nine rooms, was 1·24 in 1921 as against 1·18 in 1911 ; in the whole County the number was 1·21 in 1921. In each respect these figures indicate a decrease in overcrowding. Among houses containing less than six rooms, only 1·5 per cent. were occupied by two families and no instance of occupation by three families was recorded.

There is, therefore, comparatively very little overcrowding, but in 1925 a cottage of five rooms was found to be occupied by three families, consisting of 6 adults and 11 children ; the only other case which came to notice during the year occurred in the occupation of a temporary shed, and the nuisance was abated in both cases.

Fitness of Houses.—The standard of fitness is fairly good, although in each village there are old cottages of poor construction and requiring frequent works of repair to keep them in a habitable condition. The chief defects discovered in the course of inspection are want of general repair and cleansing, and dampness.

The defects are generally remedied in response to an informal notice from the Sanitary Inspector, and only in a very few instances is it found necessary to serve a statutory notice.

Bye-laws.—The bye-laws with respect to buildings were revised in 1909 on the model relating to Rural Districts and plans and any infringements of the bye-laws are considered at each meeting of the Council.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :								
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

I.—Unfit dwelling houses. Inspection.

(1) Total Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	214
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	128
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	96

II.—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	43
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

*III.—Action under Statutory Powers.**A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—
(a) by owners —
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close... —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) by owners —	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... —	

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders —
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit —
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

5.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—There are 94 entries on the Registers, 52 being on the wholesale register; 16 of these producers are also registered as purveyors in the District, and there are in addition 58 registered as retailers.

All cowsheds, milkshops and dairies were inspected, improvements were carried out at 3 premises, and want of cleanliness in 14 others, under the requirements of the Sanitary Inspector.

There is no regular veterinary inspection, but the Sanitary Inspector, on his visits to the cowsheds, makes an inspection of the herds and obtains the assistance of a Veterinary Surgeon in any case in which he suspects disease.

Ten samples of milk were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli and for dirt, and all gave good results with the exception of one which was reported to contain streptococci. The herd was examined and some of the cows were found to be affected with mastitis; they were isolated and their milk was excluded from use for human consumption.

No case of tuberculosis in cows nor of tuberculous milk was discovered.

No licenses were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

Meat.—Leaflets were circulated throughout the District and the slaughterhouses and butchers' shops were inspected and the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, were explained.

Notices of slaughter were regularly received by the Sanitary Inspector, who paid occasional visits at the time of slaughter and examined carcases, especially in the case of slaughter of pigs by cottagers and allotment holders. No diseased or unsound meat was discovered. In all, 69 visits were paid.

There are no stalls in the District.

The number of slaughter-houses in the district at the undermentioned dates were :—

	In 1910.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered	5	5	5
Licensed	—	3	3
—	—	—	—
Total	5	8	8

Other Foods.—The 14 bakehouses were frequently inspected, 65 visits in all being paid ; they were generally well and cleanly kept, defects being found on 2 occasions only.

The fishmongers and other food shops were also inspected and found to be satisfactory, and no seizure of unsound food was made.

Food Poisoning.—In May a complaint was received from Westcott that four persons had been attacked with severe vomiting and faintness on April 24th, two hours after partaking of some cheese which had been purchased on that day in Dorking, and that two of them had again vomited three hours after eating some more of the cheese on May 2nd. The remainder of the cheese was submitted to the Ministry of Health for examination, but no evidence could be discovered of the presence of any organisms to which the illness could be attributed. I was unable to find that there had been any similar cases in the neighbourhood, on inquiry of the firm from which the cheese had been obtained and of the medical practitioners in Dorking and Westcott.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—The County Medical Officer of Health informs me that 21 samples of milk, 5 of butter, and 4 of other articles were analysed under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and that 3 samples of milk were found to be adulterated.

6—Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows, for each of the past five years, the number of cases of certain infectious diseases notified in the District :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Scarlet Fever	21	22	24	15	19
Diphtheria	1	5	5	5	2
Enteric Fever ... ...	...	2	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ...	...	2	1	1	...
Pneumonia ... ...	...	1	...	3	6
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	...	1	...	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	11	16	11	12	12
Non-Pulmonary ,,, ...	2	2	3	6	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	1	1	1	2

The 101 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in 69 houses. There was no marked outbreak, but the disease was especially prevalent in the earlier years at Westcott and Effingham, where 37 cases and 22 cases respectively were notified in the whole period; 9 cases were notified in the rest of Dorking Rural Parish, 9 in Newdigate parish, 8 in Capel, 7 in Abinger, 5 in Mickleham, 3 in Ockley, and 1 in Wotton.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in September, 1922, in a house at Effingham within a fortnight of the return of a patient from the Isolation Hospital, and in February, 1924, the mother of a patient failed at Effingham eight days after the return of her child.

The 18 cases of Diphtheria occurred in 12 houses; 11 of the cases were at Holmwood, 3 at Westcott, and 1 case in another part of Dorking Rural parish; the other 3 cases were at Effingham.

Bacteriological examinations are made at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine at the expense of the District Council, but in 1925 only 2 specimens were sent up for examination for the presence of the diphtheria bacillus, and 2 for the tubercle bacillus, all with negative result.

The District Council provide diphtheria antitoxin for use in necessitous cases, but only 4,000 units were issued during the year.

No applications of the Schick or Sick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were made.

Under the Public Health (Pneumonia, etc.) Regulations, 1919, 10 cases of Pneumonia and 2 of Malaria were notified in the five years; 7 deaths from Lobar Pneumonia, 2 from Influenza Pneumonia, 26 from Broncho-pneumonia and 1 from unspecified Pneumonia were registered in the District.

The deaths from Influenza in the five years numbered 15 giving an annual average death-rate of 0·29 per 1000 of the population, as against an average rate of 0·37 for England and Wales; there was no particular incidence on any part of the District, 3 deaths occurring in Dorking Rural parish and not more than 2 in any other parish; 9 of the fatal cases occurred among persons above the age of 65 years.

The Isolation Hospital for the District is the Dorking Joint Hospital at Westcott; 89 of the 101 cases of Scarlet Fever, all the cases of Diphtheria and 2 of the 3 cases of Enteric Fever were removed.

The Sanitary Inspector disinfected the rooms after each case of infectious disease, and clothing, bedding and other articles were removed and stoved at the Isolation Hospital; 49 visits were paid to houses at which infectious disease was reported, 22 premises were disinfected after Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or other Fevers and 13 after Tuberculosis during the year.

Measles was generally prevalent, as shown by the notifications of the School Teachers, over a considerable part of the District in 1923, and spread to the other parishes in the next two years. Outbreaks of Whooping Cough occurred at Oakwood, Effingham and Westcott in the early part of the period, at Abinger in 1924, at Capel and again at Effingham in 1925. There was no death in the five years from Whooping Cough, and the one death recorded as due to Measles was that of a patient in whom Pulmonary Tuberculosis supervened and proved fatal five months after the attack.

The homes of the children who are reported to be suffering from these diseases are visited by the School Nurses of the County Council, and I visited the Schools at times of outbreak and advised as to precautions.

There are no facilities in the District for the cleansing of verminous persons or their belongings.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year, 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	19	17	1
Diphtheria	2	2	...
Pneumonia	6	...	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	...	...

Total cases at various ages :—

	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65
Scarlet Fever	1	1	7	4	4	2	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	1	...	...	...	...	...

The patient who died of Scarlet Fever was 23 years of age.

Tuberculosis.—New cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ... ... ...	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 ... ... ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 ... ... ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 ... ... ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 ... ... ...	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	1	1	..	..	1	1	1	..
35	3	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
45 ... .. ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and upwards ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	7	5	..	..	4	1	1	..

The 5 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis represent a death-rate of 0·48 per 1000 of the estimated population, as against an average rate of 0·71 for the ten years, 1916 to 1925. There was one death from Tuberculosis of the pelvic bones.

The following Table shows the mean population, the number of cases notified, and the number of deaths from certain infectious diseases in each quinquennium during the period from 1876 to 1925.

Period	Mean Population.	Cases.			Deaths.					
		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis
1876	8950	...	...	...	6	1	4	7	13	57
1881	9340	...	...	...	...	5	4	2	12	51
1886	9830	...	...	...	13	6	3	4	8	58
1891	10020	299	67	13	8	17	2	9	2	59
1896	9860	34	95	9	1	13	2	9	6	49
1901	9980	84	33	5	1	7	...	...	12	46
1906	10380	128	42	3	1	3	...	2	4	50
1911	10650	129	75	...	...	3	...	2	1	37
1916	9390	47	77	2	...	10	1	2	2	48
1921	10280	101	18	3	4	2	1	1	...	22

7.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in the District is carried out by the Surrey County Council.

During the five years 4 cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, but all the patients recovered. No cases of polio-myelitis were notified and there was no death from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea among young children. Four cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified ; one infant was treated at the St. Margaret's Hospital, and the other three were treated at home, and all made good recovery.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1925.

Cases Notified.	Treated at Home.	Treated in Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.
2	2	...	2

EPSOM.

May, 1926.

J. WILLIAMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

